WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Donate

NEWS — FEATURES

Winchester Public Library introduces its new seed catalog

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

April 8, 2025 . 6:00 AM — 2 min read

The Winchester Public Library has a brand new seed library. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Library-goers might be surprised to see the return of an old-fash catalog cabinet, and even more surprised to see what it contains.

Subscribe

cards but garden seeds, the brainchild of Young Adult and Reference Librarian Amanda Gogel.

“I started gardening two years ago,” she says, “and I wanted to help others grow their own vegetables.”

The idea of a seed library isn’t new, but it’s only been in the Winchester Public Library since early March.

Young Adult and Reference Librarian Amanda Gogel with one of the books she recommends for new gardeners. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Subscribe

Some public libraries don't allow patrons to donate seeds, but Gogel thinks it's a good way to make it more of a community resource, where gardeners "grow plants, save the seeds from the plants, and donate them. Gardeners are going to want to share—it's fun, especially to find new plant varieties to grow," she explains.

At the moment, most of the seeds were purchased from garden suppliers and many have already been taken by library patrons.

Donate

Her advice to new gardeners is to start small, either in the ground or in containers (which is where she grows her vegetables). And, like a true librarian, she points out that, "We have so many other resources in books," including those on how to grow different types of gardens.

"There are books on pollinator gardens, native New England horticulture and how to grow organically," she says.

Subscribe

Seeds are labeled and ready to be taken home. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Gogel found the cabinet in the library's attic and cleaned it up. It's sitting in the reference room near the jigsaw puzzles.

Subscribe

"We ask that the donors include information about the seeds on the little packets we provide," she says.

Gogel's favorite vegetables from her garden are carrots and "interesting beans," such as the Chinese long beans she grew last summer. And she wants readers to know about an upcoming talk about spring gardening.

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

Related

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that [illegible] over $9 billion in savings fo

Subscribe

seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

Latest

Subscribe

PROMOTING HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT
HEAR FROM HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS
LEARN THROUGH INTERACTIVE GAMES
MEET NEW PEOPLE
FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
Middle school & high school students, teachers, parents, friends, community members - come and bring a friend!
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
EMAIL OFFICE@NFSJ.ORG
CALL 781-729-7100
NETWORK for SOCIAL JUSTICE
FROM WINCHESTER AND CHELSEA
GIRL UP
WOMEN IN STEM
GIRLS GOTTA RUN
MIND & MATTER

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

Subscribe

High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe